

In re Patent Application of:
HYLAND
Serial No. 10/806,936
Filed: MARCH 23, 2004

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the present application. Independent Claims 1, 21, and 28 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent Claim 3, 23, and 30, respectively. Independent Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent Claim 13. Dependent Claims 2-3, 13, 22-23, and 29-30 have been canceled for consistency. In view of the amendments and arguments presented in detail below, it is submitted that all claims are patentable.

I. The Amended Claims

Amended independent Claim 1 recites a cryptographic device comprising a cryptographic module and a communications module removably coupled thereto. The cryptographic module comprises a first housing and a first connector carried thereby, the first housing comprising a first body and a first extension extending outwardly therefrom. The communications module comprises a second housing and a second connector carried thereby and being removably mateable with the first connector of the cryptographic module, the second housing comprising a second body and a second extension extending outwardly therefrom.

The first and second extensions are aligned in overlapping relation when the first and second connectors are mated together. The first connector is carried by the first body adjacent the first extension and the second connector is carried by the second extension.

Amended independent Claim 12 recites a cryptographic

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device comprising a cryptographic module, a communications module removably coupled to the cryptographic module, and at least one fastener for removably fastening the cryptographic and communications modules together. The cryptographic module comprises a first housing and a first connector carried thereby, and the first housing comprises a first body and a first extension extending outwardly therefrom.

The communications module comprises a second housing and a second connector carried thereby, the second housing comprising a second body and a second extension extending outwardly therefrom. The second connector is removably mateable with the first connector of the cryptographic module, and the first and second extensions are aligned in overlapping relation when the first and second connectors are mated together; The first connector is carried by the first body adjacent the first extension and the second connector is carried by the second extension.

Amended independent Claim 21 recites a communications method comprising coupling a cryptographic module to a network device, the cryptographic module comprising a first housing and a first connector carried thereby, the first housing comprising a first body and a first extension extending outwardly therefrom. The communications method also providing a communications module comprising a second housing and a second connector carried thereby with the second connector of the communications module being removably mated with the first connector of the cryptographic module.

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The second housing comprises a second body and a second extension extending outwardly therefrom. The first and second extensions are aligned in overlapping relation when the first and second connections are mated together. The first connector is carried by the first body adjacent the first extension and the second connector is carried by the second extension. The communications module is used to communicate with a network. Independent Claim 28 is a communications system counterpart to independent Claim 21 and has been similarly amended.

II. The Amended Claims Are Patentable

Dependent Claim 3, 13, 23, and 30, the subject matter of which are now incorporated into independent Claims 1, 12, 21, and 28, respectively, were rejected over the combination of Dumont and Janky. Dumont discloses a communications system including a portable telephone and a transmission securing auxiliary module. The portable telephone comprises a housing and a female connector carried thereby. The transmission securing auxiliary module comprises a housing and a male connector carried thereby. Janky discloses a GPS unit to mate with a cellular telephone unit. The GPS unit and the cellular telephone unit each comprises a body and an extension extending outwardly therefrom. These extensions overlap each other.

Even the selective combination of Dumont and Janky, however, fails to disclose that the second connector is carried by the second extension, as now recited in independent Claims 1, 12, 21, and 28. The Examiner cited Janky as providing this feature to the combination, yet Janky makes no such disclosure.

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Rather, Janky is silent as to how its GPS unit and its cellular telephone unit are physically connected together. FIGS. 5, 6, and 9 of Janky show that its GPS unit and its cellular telephone unit are electrically coupled so that signals may pass between the units, but is silent as to how this accomplished as no connectors of either the GPS unit or the cellular telephone unit are shown. Likewise, no portion of Janky discloses any such connector carried by either the extension of the GPS unit or the extension of the cellular telephone unit. Dumont fails to provide this critical deficiency to the combination.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 12, 21, and 28 are patentable over the combination of Dumont and Janky. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing details, are likewise patentable and require no further discussion herein.

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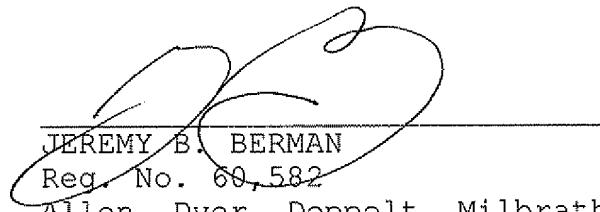
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III. CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments provided herein, it is submitted that all the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



JEREMY B. BERMAN
Reg. No. 69,582
Allen, Dyer, Doppelt, Milbrath
& Gilchrist, P.A.
255 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 1401
Post Office Box 3791
Orlando, Florida 32802
407-841-2330